

We are looking at energy costs. Everything requires energy when we have a product that goes from a field, from a mine, or from a manufacturer to your home, Mr. Speaker. The fuel costs to operate a tractor, a combine, the trucks that bring you fertilizer and that bring you seed, the trucks that take away the grown product to the processor, to the mill, and finally bringing it to your store shelf or even if you have it delivered to your house, Mr. Speaker. All those energy costs ripple through everything we do and have as citizens of this country.

What is being done about energy costs? Well, I just saw a blurb a minute ago that the President wants to tap into our energy reserve, the stored oil that we have someplace that always seems to be a political football around here to solve some problem when it is really supposed to be a reserve for very acute times of danger for our country. Now, they are using it as an economic flattener or what have you.

We have reserves in the ground in this country that we are not tapping, but our tone-deaf government here and our State of California won't do anything about that. Instead, let's export it from Venezuela, and let's export it from the Middle East. Maybe we will do something about Russia. We will see if that takes effect.

We are not doing anything to help our own people with the energy crisis and energy costs here. We are dancing around that collectively as a government in this administration. Why? What is their priority? When John Kerry says he hopes this thing Putin is doing in Ukraine doesn't stop our ability to reach our climate change goals, how tone-deaf are these people? Are you kidding me?

We are going to continue to enjoy even emptier shelves for our food, tires, and everything else because of high energy costs and a government in Washington and in Sacramento unwilling to do anything about it other than half measures or zero measures.

What does this do to our food supply, as we talked about? My colleagues in the State legislature proposed a sales tax holiday, a fuel tax holiday, which would knock about 51 cents off of a gallon of fuel. It is not the be-all or fix-all, but it can do something temporarily to help while we get our energy going again, supposedly. It would help. They turned that down. Instead, they proposed a tax increase on production of fuel in California. Unbelievable. Damn, who are you guys working for? Amazing.

In my home State, as we try to produce food, tens of millions of acre-feet of water and snow fall upon our State each year. We hear drought, drought, drought, record drought. Yes, it is lower than normal, but we are not capturing the water we can.

We could raise Shasta Dam, a Federal project, which Federal dollars were put toward. We could build Sites Reservoir in northern California and

add 1.5 million-acre feet of stored water.

But no. They are letting the water get away out through the delta for salinity and for fish populations that don't even exist. The delta smelt is gone.

The Klamath Basin up in the north, zero allocation for agriculture last year and this year. Statewide, we are looking at probably 70 percent of irrigated acres by the time it is all added up. They are going to be idle this year.

What does that mean to the American people? That is California's problem; you guys don't know what you are doing out there anyway. Well, tomato production is going to be down quite a bit, so that means less tomato sauce for New York, less olives and olive oil for New York.

This is what we are doing to our food production. Fertilizer costs are going to drive costs even more, and we will not be farming in California much longer.

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S BUDGET DISREGARDS FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, President Biden's own words: Show me your budget, and I will show you your priorities.

President Biden's budget is not only a reflection of his priorities; it is a mirror into the soul of the Democrat Party. Biden's budget exposes Democrat leadership's complete disregard for fiscal responsibility, adding trillions of dollars in new spending and sending us hurtling toward an incalculable national debt of \$45 trillion by 2032.

The budget proposal includes a staggering \$2.5 trillion in tax hikes that would weaken our global competitiveness, stifle wage growth, and send prices skyrocketing even higher than the current 40-year high inflation. The result would be devastating for American investment, innovation, and jobs.

The deficit spending in Biden's proposal will leave our children steeped in debt and at risk of an economic crisis they cannot borrow their way out of. His budget doubles down on the radical socialist policies, including the Green New Deal and its extreme environmental policies and a whole-of-government assault on oil and gas, which is undermining our energy independence and making us weaker and more vulnerable, like our friends in Europe. It also includes tax hikes that will make America less competitive, raising taxes higher than Communist China, and hiring tens of thousands of new IRS agents to harass hardworking Americans.

This is his vision for a stronger and more prosperous America.

While the President's expansion of nondefense domestic spending is on

pace to double over the next several years, his budget effectively cuts spending for the Defense Department by 4 percent. If our adversaries weren't already emboldened by the disaster at the southern border, the debacle in Afghanistan, the weak negotiations with Iran, or the slow and feckless response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, they certainly will be now.

The President's budget is not only a failure in the area of readiness; it is more advertisement of weakness in an increasingly dangerous world.

Lastly, the President's budget uses an outrageous budget gimmick to prevent his massive, multitrillion-dollar Build Back Better from affecting the budget score.

Mr. Speaker, if the American people did that—that off-balance, Enron-like accounting scheme—they would go to prison. This is not just intellectually dishonest; it is downright deceitful.

From the top-line numbers to tax hikes, from partisan policies to bureaucratic bloat, President Biden's budget highlights the Democratic Party's real priorities: the largest expansion and most radical reimagination of the Federal Government in the lives of its people.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 44 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LIEU) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, take this day into Your keeping. Let no minute pass that we fail to realize that You have ordained its stewardship, guided our footsteps, and allowed our enjoyment of it.

For You only had to speak, and the heavens were created. You breathed Your words, and the stars were born. You assigned the sea its boundaries and locked the oceans in vast reservoirs.

Holy God, we marvel at Your handiwork and stand in awe of Your power. So may we realize that You are at work in us this day.

In reverence to You, may we display the beauty of Your creation in us. May we be true to the purposes for which You have placed us in this time, in this place.

From our mouths, may there come forth words that reflect both Your

truth and Your compassion. May our attitudes reveal the care and concern You have for all those You have made in your image.

Let our lives ever flow with the love You have shown us that all may come to rejoice in Your loving kindness.

In Your merciful name, we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LAMALFA led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE DONALD E. YOUNG

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the legacy of my good friend and colleague, Congressman Don Young from Alaska, who sadly passed away the evening of March 18.

Don was an inspirational man who served the people of Alaska in the House of Representatives for nearly half a century and did so with a giant heart and tremendous passion.

Don cherished this institution. He was a strong proponent of bipartisanship and civility, and he consistently sought to find common ground. It is something I always admired about him.

There is something I want the country and the world to know: He was also a champion for the disability community, and I was proud to work closely with Don as co-chairs of the Bipartisan Disabilities Caucus.

Together, we worked across the aisle to break down barriers and provide opportunities for Americans with disabilities and to raise awareness of disability issues for our colleagues.

Don was a problem solver. He was a dedicated public servant. And, in many ways, he was larger than life. I was devastated to learn of his passing, and I am really going to miss him. He made a difference.

His wife, Anne, and his children, Dawn and Joni, are in my prayers, as well as his entire family.
Rest in peace.

AMERICA'S EXTREME ECONOMIC CRISIS

(Mrs. MILLER of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, a tree is known by its fruits. Every policy that Biden and the Democrats have created is demonstrably an America last policy.

They call it Build Back Better, but the truth is, their agenda is Americans last, build back broke policies.

Americans are facing an extreme economic crisis as a result of Democrat policies that President Biden and Speaker PELOSI have put into place.

Skyrocketing prices at the store and the pump are causing Americans pain in their pocketbook. Biden's outrageous budget is fuel on the inflation fire.

President Biden and the Democrats in the House are deliberately bankrupting Americans and taking away their economic opportunities. What are we leaving behind for our children and grandchildren?

Americans cannot afford the America last policies the Democrats have created that have made crisis upon crisis.

RELIANCE ON FOREIGN OIL

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York). Mr. Speaker, U.S. reliance on foreign oil threatens our national security, pollutes our environment, and unnecessarily burdens our families with high and fluctuating gas prices.

Americans want to make the leap to electric vehicles which are cleaner, quicker, and quieter. But the lack of supply and changing infrastructure is holding people back.

China ranks number 1 in the world, controlling 80 percent of the market of producing raw materials in lithium ion batteries, the United States ranks 15. If we don't move quickly, we will fall further behind.

I support efforts to invoke the Defense Production Act so President Biden can help domestic manufacturers expand the production and supply of critical materials and goods.

This is a bold and necessary move that will accelerate the availability of electric vehicles and put Americans back to work.

ENERGY COSTS AFFECT FARMERS

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, President Biden has been promising recently

empty shelves, food shortages in the United States of America.

American farmers are the most efficient and the best in the world at what they do, but they can't do it very well with these high energy costs.

Fertilizer takes energy to produce. It takes oil to produce. When you see the cost increasing 51 percent, this isn't just going to hit the farmers; it is going to hit all consumers.

Energy costs ripple through everything: planting, harvesting, delivering, everything. So what are we doing? What is our focus going to be?

In my home State of California, water is being taken away from agriculture. We need the Bureau of Reclamation and our own State water resources to be focused on producing food for people.

In Ukraine, those farmers are trying to plant amidst bombs from Putin and Russia. In our own country, in my own home State, the bombs are being dropped by the government on farmers, having their water taken away, having their energy costs go through the roof.

We have to focus on producing energy and food for Americans that is affordable instead of this direction that the Federal and my own State government are doing to the people and not for them.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF RETIRED MAJOR GENERAL NORBERT RAPPL

(Mr. MORELLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to an American patriot and a prominent fixture in my community, retired Major General Norbert Rappl, who passed away earlier this month.

General Rappl was a courageous veteran who dedicated his life to serving our great Nation in the United States Army.

A Korean war veteran, he rose through the ranks, retiring as Commander of the 98th Training Division of the United States Army Reserves. We are deeply grateful for his service.

Upon returning home, General Rappl turned his dedication to his community, and my hometown of Irondequoit, becoming a charter member and past president of the Irondequoit Rotary Club chapter.

His never-ending devotion to serving others was his life's calling and is a key piece of his legacy that will never be forgotten. May he rest in peace.

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this past Tuesday was Vietnam Veterans Day. The day was a reminder that our freedom is not free.